

# BETH ABRAHAM

Vol. VI

No. 1.

September, 1952

## Temple Welcomes Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis

### A MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

For my wife, Malkah, and myself, this Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of a new life in a new community. By the time you receive this news letter we will have just settled in your midst and will have begun to take roots here. We shall be seeking every opportunity to make the acquaintance of new friends in our congregation.

No season offers itself more naturally or fully for such acquaintance than do the Holy Days. For we shall be praying together and thinking together. Together we shall study the scriptural portions relevant to our meditations; and in its teachings we shall find in each other the friendship and strength and inspiration which derives from our common faith, It is during this time that all of us will voice our feelings and our aspirations within sight of one another as a congregation in Israel, that I hope that you and I will have the opportunity to come to know each other. As your Rabbi I shall have a number of opportunities to speak to you from the pulpit during these thoughtful days, but I would also like to hear your thoughts, your questions and your feelings. Such an interchange of ideas is imperative, particularly during these Holy Days.

Cantor Halevy and I will do all within our ability to aid in rendering meaningful the readings of our liturgy. We pray that together with you we shall be successful in converting the printed word into a vital significant force which constitutes the true wisdom of our religious services.

May the coming year bring us an era of peace and plenty so that we may have the unimpeded strength to enrich our lives through service to man and God.

HAROLD M. SCHULWEIS

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To the Members and Friends of Temple Beth Abraham:

It is with great pleasure that I extend to you, on behalf of the officers and directors of the Synagogue, our warmest wishes for a year of good health, peace and prosperity.

As we stand together on the threshold of a New Year, let us resolve to live up to the high ideals of our faith and strive to bequeath to our children a better world.

In this spirit, I wish to you all a "L'shono Tovo," a Happy New Year. On this Rosh Hashonah day, we shall pray together that the Almighty will establish for Israel and all humanity an order of justice and brotherhood.

—ELLIOTT A. NANKIN

Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis has arrived at Temple Beth Abraham as its new spiritual leader.

"We are pleased that Rabbi Schulweis, with his excellent background is now associated with our Temple," declared Mr. Elliot Nankin, President of the Board of Directors. "We look

forward to a period of intensified synagogue activities and renewed interest in Temple Beth Abraham," stated Mr. Nankin.

A special reception was arranged for Rabbi and Mrs. Schulweis at the Temple on the evening of September 4th, at which time they met many members of the Congregation.

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Telephone: Hlgate 4-9336

327 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 10. Calif.

#### OFFICERS

Elliott A. Nankin .....President  
Herman Hertz.....First Vice-President  
Sam Epsrein.....Second Vice-President  
Sam Katzburg.....Treasurer  
Ben J. Weiss.....Secretary

#### TEMPLE STAFF

Harold M. Schulweis.....Rabbi  
Nathaniel H. Halevy.....Cantor  
David Bluer.....Sexton  
Sam Clar.....Chairman, School Board  
Ruth Hodes.....Office Secretary

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Emanuel Green.....Men's Club  
Mrs. Herman Boyarsky....School and Youth  
Mrs. Joseph Landes.....Sisterhood  
Horace Cohn.....Tefillin Club  
Ruth Hodes.....Beth Abraham Family

#### **BETH ABRAHAM FAMILY**

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Edna Haberman and Mr. Charles Bork on their marriage on August 6th in Las Vegas.

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Davis on the marriage of their daughter, Edda Miriam., to Mr. Marvin Kalkstein of Brooklyn, New York, at the Temple on August 17th.

Mr. and Mrs. Lou Silberman on the marriage of their daughter, Marion to Mr. Bernard Newman of San-Francisco, at the Temple on Sunday, September 7th.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Epstein, on the betrothal of their daughter, Bernice Alice, to Mr. William Glueck. The wedding will be solemnized on October 26th.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Sinai, on the betrothal of their daughter, Beverly, to Mr. Franklyn Anixter of San Francisco.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott A. Nankin on the birth of their first grandchild, Gary Craig, born May 29th, to their children, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Nankin.

Mr. and Mrs. Asher Bluer, parents, on the birth of Steven Irving on August 22nd.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Morrison grandparents, and Mr. and Mrs. Saul Shapiro, parents, on the arrival of baby Abraham on August 3rd.

### **ANNUAL MEN'S CLUB INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

The date for this exciting event is September 14th, 6:30 p.m., at the Lake Merritt Hotel. The charge is \$5.00 per plate, which includes tip, tax and all the trimmings.

Those of you who have attended in the past know that this grand affair has been a sell-out every year. Of course, you, as a member, are given the first opportunity to make reservations.

Reservation Chairman for the year is Mr. Lou Silberman, LO 3-6852 and Lee Block, TE 4-8373.

Don't forget the date — mail your reservation early.

Sympathies To:

The family of the late Anna Berman, who was called to her eternal rest on July 6th.

Mr. Norman Simons and family on the tragic accident which claimed the life of his beloved wife, Ruth Simons.

To all the bereaved and sorrowing, we ask that the Almighty send them His blessed healing.

### **SISTERHOOD NEWS**

Dear Member:

We hope you have had a nice summer and are ready to come back to Sisterhood meetings filled with the interest and desire to lend your fullest support to our efforts to make the coming year a most successful one.

Our first meeting will be a Luncheon on Tuesday, September 23rd at 11:45 a.m. in the Auditorium. I hope to see all of you there as guests of the Officers and Board of Sisterhood.

With your assistance, we know that Temple Beth Abraham and Sisterhood, under the guidance of Rabbi Schulweis, will find new strength in the attainment of our goal for a new and finer Religious School for our children.

On behalf of your Officers and Board, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Healthy and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

CYRIL L. WEISS, (Mrs. Ben J. Weiss) President

BETH ABRAHAM

Vol. VII

Number 5

MAY, 1953

## **BUILDING FUND**

By Frederica Landes

We acknowledge with gratitude pledges and contributions made to the Building Fund by Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dubovsky and Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Kofman. Special contributions (acknowledged by letter written by Mrs. Endre Balint, 3561 Redwood Road, KEllog 3-0879), have been received from Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rubenstein in memory of Mrs. Tillie Rotner; from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Singerman in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Leon on their 40th wedding anniversary; from Mr. and Mrs. Mark Leon, wishing a speedy recovery to Mrs. T. Braveroff; from Mrs. Harry Bercovich in memory of her mother, Bertha Bercovich; from Mrs. Sadie Untergerger, Mr. and Mrs. David Edelstein, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Seigel, Mrs. Bettie Bercovich, Mr. Abram Bercovich, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Berman in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Scheibner's 50th wedding anniversary.

**The semi - annual meeting of the Congregation will be held Thursday night, May 14, at 8 p.m. in the Temple Auditorium.**

There will be the second and final reading to the proposed amendment to Article 7 of the By-Laws giving the President the right of approval of the Board' to appoint four directors for a term of one year in addition to the regularly elected members.

### **LAST ISSUE**

With this issue, the Beth Abraham News will not appear again until the end of August. The Editor wishes to thank all members of the editorial staff for their devoted assistance in the preparation of each monthly issue.

### **Cornerstone Celebration**

**To Begin May 24th**

**The cornerstone of Temple Beth Abraham's new Religious School will be laid at impressive ceremonies planned for Sunday, May 24, 1953, at 2:30 p.m.**

The program, which is under the general chairmanship of Leo Wasserman, will begin with a message of welcome by Elliott Nankin, President of the Congregation. This will be followed by a musical program and an address by Rabbi Saul White, Rabbi of Congregation Beth Sholom, San Francisco, and one of the leading Conservative rabbis of California.

The role of the children of Beth Abraham will not be forgotten, for an important place on the program has been allocated to the ceremony of immuring beneath the cornerstone itself a scroll upon which all the children of the Sunday School will have inscribed their names as a permanent testimonial to their attendance in Temple Beth Abraham in 1953.

On the following Saturday evening, May 30th, at 8 p.m. in the Temple Auditorium, a festive evening has been arranged in commemoration of this event. There will be dancing to the music of Sam Stern's Orchestra, refreshments, and entertainment.

The evening's program is under the general chairmanship of Larry Meyers.

**Members of the Congregation and their friends are invited to be the guests of Temple Beth Abraham on both occasions, Sunday afternoon, May 24th, at 2:30 p.m., and Saturday, May 30th, at 8 p.m.**

A very large and active committee has worked diligently so that our cornerstone-laying ceremonies may be both pleasant and memorable. Committee members include: Herman Hertz, General Chairman; Sam Epstein, Building Chairman; Dr. Nat J. Brodke, Planning Chairman; Leo Wasserman, Special Events Chairman;

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Mrs. Joseph Landes.....Sisterhood  
Mrs. Mayer Goldberg.....Special Features  
Mrs. Wm. L. Stern.....Beth Abraham Family  
Mr. Maxwell Karp.....Reporter at large  
Horace Cohn.....Tefillin Club

#### WELFARE FUND APPEAL

The 1953 Welfare Fund Campaign is now over the half-way mark. Headed by Sam Clar as General Chairman, the appeal is seeking \$329,278 for more than 50 causes overseas, nationally and locally. In commenting on the mounting anti-Jewish tension in Russia and the Iron Curtain countries, Mr. Clar said that "Every Jew has a personal stake in the success of this year's drive. Through increased support of the Welfare Fund we can make it possible for Israel to go on saving lives, and we can help insure a healthy American-Jewish community."

All members of the Jewish community are being asked to increase their pledges by 20% as a result of the additional funds required this year. In addition to the needs of distressed Jews in Europe and North Africa, more money is required by Israel so that it can be strengthened to absorb growing numbers of refugees. Temple Beth Abraham members should also be particularly interested in allocations to the Jewish Theological Seminary and other religious, cultural and educational institutions made by the Welfare Fund.

In our own local community, a vital network of social services has been built up for family counseling, child care, aged care, recreation, Jewish education and many programs, of volunteer service for servicemen and veterans. "Everyone benefits from these local services," Mr. Clar stated, "so be generous. When you are called upon, be glad that you can work and give to this life-saving work."

### **The Rabbi's Corner**

Another Congregational year is drawing to an 'end and in weeks we will be scattered throughout the country.

Most of us work throughout the year dreaming of vacation. It is quite natural that we should long to get away from the responsibilities of the every day and escape into some isle of seclusion. A change of environment is good for all of us and it allows us to get out of the rut of conventional living and social pressures.

But it is more than the body that needs rest and change. The mind and soul of man need a replenishing of their spent energies. The winter mind is too burdened with the pursuit of making a living, of gaining clients or patients or customers; with the struggle for buying low and selling high. Even the organizational extra-curricular activities become increasingly trying. The constant challenge to get the people out to run a successful meeting to work out a planned program, to procure a short-winded speaker, to culminate an effective drive.

Vacation, therefore, should be exploited as an opportunity to restore our energies and to give thought to what has happened and to pause for critical self-evaluation.

May I suggest a few questions for each of us to consider in the leisure of warm vacation days: 1) Has affiliation with the Temple enriched my life religiously, culturally, ethically? 2) Has my Jewish consciousness been heightened through my identification with Temple? 3) Have I availed myself of the manifold program of the Temple? Have I grown through its Adult Education Seminars, its Men's Club and Sisterhood programs and its Religious Services and Congregational activities? 4) Has being a member of Temple Beth Abraham made any effect on the religious practices in my home, in my contact with my family, in my dealings with my fellow human being? If you answer these questions in the negative or if answering some in the affirmative you still feel a sense of inadequacy, then you must answer for yourself, as well as for my own counsel, the questions: Can I suggest ways and means of improving the religious clime of the Temple? In what way can I help introduce a more profound religious sense and a more meaningful Jewish awareness in our community?

I would appreciate hearing from you during the summer interlude and I assure you that your helpful criticisms and suggestions will be considered with great care and sincere gratitude.

### **BETH ABRAHAM FAMILY**

Dear Family:

You may think I am a bit premature when I bring up the subject of summer vacations, but that is exactly where my thoughts are this morning. This is the last issue of the News and' so

of course you won't be hearing from me until after vacation. However, I will be keeping my ears open for any bit of news, and I hope you will continue calling me, so that I can bring you all up to date in the Fall.

We have had two new daughters born into the family. One to Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Roth and another to Mr. and Mrs. Murray Gordon. We are very happy for the proud Mamas and Papas and congratulations from all of us.

On April 25th, Allan Hillman, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Hillman (grandparents Rose and Sam), will be Bar Mitzvah. We know this will be a proud and happy time for this family who have always been so closely connected with our Temple, and so we send our fondest good wishes and Maz-

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

### **BUILDING PLANS FOR TEMPLE APPROVED**

Future plans to expand all Congregation facilities have been proposed by the Building Committee headed by Herman Hertz, Chairman. After a thorough study of all the requirements for a Temple which will adequately serve the needs of its membership, the Building Committee has proposed the following:

**1. A COMPLETELY NEW AUDITORIUM BUILDING** to be erected on the Euclid Avenue site in back of the Temple. It will be large enough to accommodate wedding parties, banquets and other social and cultural events. Club and meeting rooms will also be housed in the auditorium building for use by our youth and other congregational groups.

**2. AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF MODERN SCHOOL ROOMS** will be built in the area presently occupied by the auditorium to provide for our expanding program of Jewish education.

**3. REMODELING OF THE SYNAGOGUE** so that it will be a more attractive and pleasant place for all of us to worship together.

With the completion of the ramp from Euclid Avenue, the first step has already been taken in tile building program. It is now possible to enter the synagogue from Euclid Avenue with only a few steps.

(Continued to Pane 4, Col, 2)

### **Yahrzeits**

The Yahrzeits of the following beloved departed will be observed during the next three weeks. May their memory be a blessing:

- Harry Lipka.....Sept. 13
- Nessim Cowan..... Sept. 15
- Rabbi Rachlin Baer.....Sept. 17
- Joseph Markowitz.....Sept. 18
- Abraham Elkin.....Sept. 18
- Benjamin Wolf.....Sept. 19
- Abram Breslov.....Sept. 19
- Wm. Kestenblatt.....Sept. 21
- Samuel Weiss.....Sept. 22

Fannie Silberman.....Sept. 24  
Eliahu Baston.....Sept. 24  
Ethel Baston.....Sept. 21  
Minnie Teverov.....Sept. 26  
Mary Weinstein.....Sept. 29  
Harry Horwitz.....Oct. 1.  
Abram Maltzman.....Oct.

### **Book of Remembrance**

As in the past, the congregation will publish and distribute the Book of Remembrance in which will be inscribed the names of our dear departed ones. These names will be read at the Memorial Services on Yom Kippur morning.

In order to make certain that your dear ones be remembered at the Memorial Service, please see to it that the Memorial Cards reach the Temple office not later than Monday, September 22.

With this issue the Temple Beth Abraham News will now appear monthly.

The Editor is interested in knowing the reaction of the membership to the new appearance of the News, as well as any suggestions for future issues.

### **BUILDING PLANS, Con't.**

With the commissioning of the architectural firm of Warnecke and Warnecke who will draw up complete building plans, the Committee is now making plans for an intensive campaign to raise the sum of \$200,000. The interest and participation of all members of the Temple will be required for this campaign to be a success. Watch the mail for further announcements.

### **SCHOOL NOTES**

Enrollment of the students in the Religious School and Hebrew School will take place on Sunday, September 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium. To assure the success of the Religious School program; it is essential that each child register on the opening day.

### **RABBI SCHULWEIS, Con't.**

A graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbi Schulweis was Associate Rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Parkchester, New York, before coming to Oakland. He also was the spiritual leader of the Bangor Jewish Community Center in Bangor, Pennsylvania.

Born and educated in New York, Rabbi Schulweis graduated from the Teacher's Institute of Yeshiva Isaac El Chanan. He received his B.A. at Yeshiva, College and his Master's Degree at New York University. Rabbi Schulweis is the co-author of a forthcoming book entitled "Source Book in the Philosophy of Religion." He has also been a contributor to several Jewish and secular periodicals such as the Reconstructionist, the F e-view of Religion, and the Personalist.

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

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